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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Putin of Russia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko
Notetakers: Jay Bonds, Jeff Houle, and
Marco Broz

DATE, TIME: October 7, 2002, 12:50-12:59 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Vladimir, How are you today? (U)

President Putin: Very well, thank you so much for the call. (U)

The President: Well, I am calling to wish you a happy 50th birthday. I remember when 50 sounded like it was old. Now it seems very young. (U)

President Putin: Thank you George, it is a pleasure to hear your voice. I am tremendously grateful for your call. Thank you, it is a pleasant sign for me of our personal relationship. I must tell you it is a pleasure to have among my close friends a person like you. (U)

The President: Thank you very much. We are looking forward to having Lyudmila here this weekend. (U)

President Putin: Yes, she remembered the invitation by Laura and she asked me to help arrange this trip. She is trying to develop provincial libraries and was hoping Laura would like to work with the Russians. How is Laura doing? (U)

The President: She is doing great. She is in New York and is coming back tonight. I just very briefly wanted you to know I am giving a speech on Iraq tonight. It is not a war speech, but says that I want to work with the world to disarm Saddam. I am also very pleased that the energy summit went well and that

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Donny Evans and Minister Gref are having good conversations. I hope that these conversations are getting to you. (S)

President Putin: Yes, I am aware of this and I have been informed that the American side organized the meetings very well. As far as I know, the dialogue is continuing. (S)

The President: Yes. (U)

President Putin: As far as Iraq is concerned, I know that you are inclined to look for peaceful means. I do hope to meet you in Europe in the near future. (S)

The President: Yes, but I will first see you in Mexico, Vladimir. (S)

President Putin: Yes, you are quite right. (U)

The President: Then I want to come to Russia after I go to Prague. I told my team that it is very important that I go. (S)

President Putin: Excellent, George. (U)

The President: Finally, the world is watching very closely your good gesture to talk to Shevardnadze in Georgia. I know it is difficult. I know that you are doing the right thing and hopefully you are making some progress. (S)

President Putin: I can tell you I had two conversations with him, last night and today. I am planning to work together with him to remove the threats you are aware of. I think, George, you better than anyone else will understand me. I am going to tell you exactly what we are going to talk about. We know specifically where the people are who blew up the houses and Shevardnadze knows that too. If he cooperates with us, we will be able to resolve our intergovernmental relations completely and cooperate with you. If he doesn't do that, and continues to provide shelter for them, we will try our best to eliminate those terrorists and this will be done against the background of the worsening of our relations. He said he is prepared for joint work and this work can be done with minimal damage for Georgia. But, if he does everything we have agreed about, everything will be alright. (S)

The President: Sounds like you are making progress. We stand by to help and share intelligence. We want to bring these al-Qaida terrorists to justice and I think the idea of you working together with Georgia is very smart Vladimir. (S)

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President Putin: Thank you, George. I would like to embrace you, please give my best regards to Laura and the girls. (U)

The President: Thank you and happy birthday, friend. (U)

President Putin: Thank you, George. (U)

The President: See you soon. (U)

President Putin: Good bye. (U)

The President: Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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